(b) Next meeting will be held on dates mutually convenient to India and Nepal.

[*English*]

Modernisation of Integrated Steel

2224. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the modernisation of the integrated steel plants of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL);

(b) the total amount including foreign exchange likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether the country will be self sufficient in steel after their modernisation; and

(d) the time by which the modernisation work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a), (b) and (d) The status of the modernisation projects in respect of the four Integrated Steel Plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is as follows:

The Modernisation Project of Durgapur Steel Plant is already under execution. While the progress in respect of certain packages of work has not been in accordance with the schedules drawn, the overall completion schedule of March, 1993 set for the whole project is likely to be adhered to. The sanctioned definitive cost estimate for the project is Rs. 2667.6 crores, inclusive of a foreign exchange component of Rs. 685 crores.

The modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plan is being taken up in two phases—Phase-I consisting of 9 indigenous packages is likely to be completed by July, 1993. Phase-II consists of 15 indigenous and 5 global packages. Orders for 10 out of 15 indigenous packages have been finalised. The bids for the global packages are being scrutinised. The likely date of completion of Phase-II is October, 1995. The sanctioned cost of modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant is Rs. 2461 crores, inclusive of a foreign exchange component of Rs. 396 crores.

A proposal at an estimated cost of Rs. 1096 crores, inclusive of a foreign exchange component of Rs. 483 crores, for the modernisation of Hot Strip Mill and installation of the Continuous Casting facilities at Bokaro Steel Plant is at present under consideration of the Government. This module of modernisation is expected to be completed within 36 months of the placement of orders. An investment decision on the proposed project is yet to be taken.

Various options for the proposed modernisation of Burnpur Works of IISCO are at present under examination of the Government. An investment decision is expected to be taken shortly. The project is likely to take about 5 years for completion.

(c) Though the production of the Integrated Steel Plants would increase substantially consequent upon modernisation, there may still remain a gap between the demand and the availability in the country, in respect of some special categories of iron and steel.

Jharkand Issue

2225. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the negotiations in connection with the demand for creation of a Jharkand State;

(b) whether the Government are considering a further round of discussion in near future on the subject with the concerned parties; and